

February 17, 2017

Mr. Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554-0004

Received & Inspected
FEB 27 2017
FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Pai:

I understand that you recently announced the formation of the Federal Communication Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, which will be responsible for putting forth new ideas pertaining to the effective deployment of broadband across this nation. Given that you are accepting nominations for this committee, I want to write in support of a very impressive Kentuckian, Brian Mefford, who I believe merits consideration.

As I am sure you are aware from receiving Mr. Mefford's application, he has a wide breadth of experience in the telecommunications industry. Presently, he is founder and CEO of Connected Nation Exchange, a spinoff of another company he founded, Connected Nation. Both entities have had as their primary missions the expansion of wireless access and closure of the digital divide. Along with these endeavors, Mr. Mefford has had an opportunity to work alongside the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on an ancillary initiative, Opportunity Online, to encourage and support the concept of public libraries as hubs for wireless activity and workforce development in rural communities.

This brief snapshot of Mr. Mefford's career evidences his devotion to and passion for improving the digital landscape. A man of such experience and talents, in my opinion, would be a worthy addition to the FCC's committee. As such, I ask that you give thoughtful deliberation to his application and nomination for service on this committee.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/jw

cc: Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 6, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter supporting the appointment of Mr. Brian Mefford, CEO of Connected Nation Exchange to serve on the Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). We will certainly consider your recommendation and Mr. Mefford's impressive resume as the Commission reviews the nominations for the BDAC.

Last September, I proposed what I called a Digital Empowerment Agenda—a blueprint of policies that would accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access, or broadband, in communities across the country, including rural America. The BDAC is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders to exchange ideas and develop recommendations to the Commission on broadband deployment. Its mission will be to identify regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment and to make recommendations on reducing and/or removing them, which will in turn enhance the Commission's ability to carry out its statutory responsibility to encourage broadband deployment to all Americans.

I appreciate your taking the time to communicate your recommendations to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Leader McConnell, I'm so grateful for the support you and your office have given me over the years. I look forward to working with you in my new role and appreciate you getting in touch regarding this recommendation.